



Chairman's Newsletter

Number 29. January, 1986.

CONVENTION TIME WITH THE CRAWFORTHS.

The good news for the new year is that our upcoming convention in Washington, D.C. promises to be the ISASC highlight of 1986, particularly so because Michael and Diana Crawforth will be with us. The last time the Crawforths were in the U.S. was at our very first convention in San Francisco in 1979, so their long overdue return visit will be a most welcome one.

The convention dates are May 2 to 4 (the weather should be just beautiful), and the hotel is the Park Terrace, a new and quite elegant property. The program, under the capable direction of member Gene Mahoney, includes a walking tour of the scales and weights at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History; a symposium featuring presentations by Michael Crawforth, Diana Crawforth, George Mallis (authorities, all), and a certain Bob Stein; a "Metrology Marketplace" where dealers will exhibit scales and weights (for sale, of course), and a visit to the home of Frank and Betty Wright to see their collection of 300 scales.

Enclosed is the program, an information sheet, a reservation form, and a descriptive piece on the hotel, which should be all you need to make your reservations immediately. The place to be on May 2-4 is Washington D.C.!

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ELECTION RESULTS.

In accordance with our by-laws, the election of directors for the 1986-1988 term was held in late 1985. 112 ballots were returned, of which 106 voted for the slate of five nominees, representing a near unanimous response. The five newly-elected directors then proceeded to elect the following officers for the 1986-1988 term: Bob Stein, President; Michael A. Crawforth and Tod Carley, Vice Presidents; and Douglas Dallimer, Secretary/Treasurer.

However, concurrent with this action, the directors decided that it was...

TIME FOR EXPANDED REPRESENTATION.

When ISASC's by-laws were originally formulated, they provided for five directors, but in view of our continued growth and diverse membership, it seems clear that a larger number of directors representing more national constituencies would make for a more democratically-structured organization.

Consequently, the present directors are submitting to the membership a proposed by-laws amendment expanding the number of directors to seven, with the provision that they represent North American, UK, and European continent member constituencies. A separate mailing explaining this action in more detail will be made to the members no later than early February, and will include a ballot. When you receive it, please vote on the proposed amendment immediately. Assuming it passes, the five directors will then appoint two more directors to fill the newly-created 1986-1988 vacancies, and thereafter, for succeeding terms, the membership at large will elect all seven directors.

AND NOW ABOUT MONEY.

True to our word, enclosed is our financial statement for 1985. You'll note that as of January 1, 1986, it pertains only to the North American Chapter (the European Chapter having been established as of that date as financially self-sufficient). While the fiscal condition of the North American Chapter seems quite substantial at the \$8,000+ level, our circumstances are better than this figure indicates, mainly because of the receipt of 1986 dues. As of this writing, our bank account is approxi-

mately \$15,000, and we still have some 25 members who as yet have not paid their dues. However, on the expense side, we can expect administrative and EQM costs in 1986 to approximate \$7,000. This means that our 1986 year-end condition should be about the same as year-end 1985, although dues from new members and income from literature sales might improve our condition moderately. All in all, we're nicely solvent, which is a nice way to be.

AND HAVING MENTIONED DUES...

this is as good a time as any to ask those members who are still delinquent to please take care of their obligation forthrightly so we are spared the task of sending past due notices and making the eventual "final notice" phone calls.

AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE.

An updated ISASC library list is enclosed, with a new entry describing the new EQM Index which so many members have already acquired. If your EQM's cover a several years' span and you don't have an Index, you're missing out on a valuable reference tool. And if your EQM's do not go back to the beginning, you can remedy that situation by ordering back issues. Which is not to say you shouldn't be acquiring our other offerings. They're all very much worth having.

And while we're on the subject of literature, here's a special offer to members, extracted from the latest European Newsletter:

By arrangement with the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, we can offer the Ninth Edition of the Weights and Measures Handbook (1981) at the considerably reduced price of L3.00 inc. postage. Contents include Weights and Measures Regulations, Tables of Error, International Definitions, Abbreviations of Units of Measurement and Marking, Appeal Case Law, Imperial-Metric Equivalents. Hardback. 464 pp.

Order direct from ITSA, Metropolitan House, 3rd Floor, 37 Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6DA. England., enclosing L3.00 and quoting membership in ISASC. Payment from outside the U.K. must be by Eurocheque, Bankers Draft or International Money Order.

ABOUT OUR EUROPEAN BRETHREN.

For those North American members who are planning a trip abroad this summer, by all means consider including Paris and ISASC's European Chapter convention in your itinerary. The dates are June 27-29, and the event promises to be a stellar one. If you'd like descriptive material and a reservation form, write convention chairman Jan Wage, Te Boelaerlei 119 Box 8, B. 2200 Borgerhout, Belgium.

And if you're Europe-bound, Bob Holdaway (editor of the European Newsletter) tells us that all members have a standing invitation, from the curator himself, to visit the Avery Historical Museum near Birmingham, England. Having been there, we can tell you that the Museum has a marvelous scale collection, and a visit just might send an ISASC member into raptures. The person to contact is Eric Parrish, Museum Curator, W.&T. Avery Ltd., Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B66 2LP, England. Telephone: 021/558-1112 and 2161.

NEWS OF MEMBERS' DOINGS.

This past fall, one of our more peripatetic members, Jan Wage of La Canada, California, came to Chicago on business but found time to dine with Margie and Bob Stein and view their collection of letter and parcel scales. It was a most enjoyable evening for all.

A recent member missive from Shirl and Bill Peabody, who are dealers in "Old Tools and Primitives," tells us that they'll be bringing some unusual scales to their booth at Chicago's McCormick Place Antiques Show on March 20-23, and that they "would enjoy meeting any members."

Another missive this past autumn from member Joe Wiley related the following: "Just got back from the Caribbean and South America. Found one scale. They didn't speak English... I didn't speak Spanish. Finally decided it wasn't worth the effort. My wife had already bought enough to carry. I have 25 scales on display at the local library and have received several compliments." Thanks, Joe. Next time you go scale-hunting south of the border, consider taking a course in instant Spanish.

Member Lew Weiss sent us a N.Y. Times article of October 13, 1985, describing the American Numismatic Society's late-October conference on "America's Currency, 1789-1866." Wouldn't you know that among the featured speakers was ISASC member Eric Newman, identified in the article as a "numismatic notable" and "one of the hobby's finest researchers and writers." Let's hear it for Eric!

MISCELLANY.

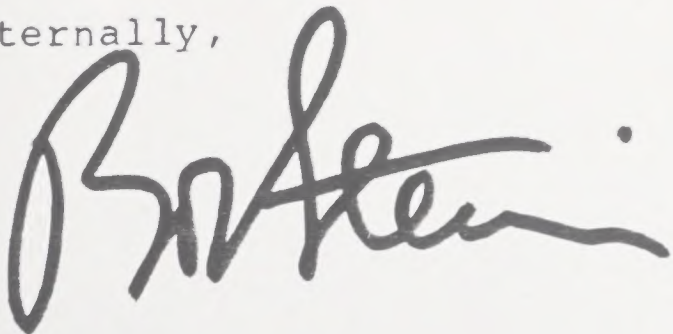
** It's with sadness we report that one of our charter members, Mort Wormser, passed away last fall. Mort built up a magnificent collection over the years, and from what he told us several years ago when we visited him in Sarasota, Florida, he had bequeathed his collection to the University of California at San Francisco, with the provision that all or part of it be displayed from time to time.

** In the process of setting up the European Chapter as an independent entity, the chapter's share of ISASC publications, posters, and EQM binders, along with back issues of EQM's, had to be packed up and shipped to England. The responsibility for this (a really big undertaking) was assumed by Tod Carley and carried out in his usual ultra-efficient style. For Tod's sterling effort, we hereby give him a resounding cheer and a unanimous vote of thanks.

** Again, our annual thanks to member Peter DiCristofaro for his annual contribution to ISASC of \$100, in addition to his dues. A most generous action. And when member Irvin Gendler sent us \$50 as his dues payment and we asked if it was an inadvertent overpayment, he replied, "Absolutely not. It was quite intentional."

And that just about covers all the ISASC goings-on to date. Until April, when I write again...

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

